Tripartite Advisory Committees at the Central and State levels to advise the Government concerning matters arising out of the administration of the Act. The State Advisory Committee for Tamil Nadu was last constituted in May, 1993 for a period of three years.

The meetings of the Central and State Advisory Committees are held from time to time and their recommendations/suggestions are given due cosideration by the Government.

In the above circumstances, no proposal for constitution of a Working Group to study long term impact of legislation on beedi and cigar workers of Tamil Nadu or any other State is under consideration of the Labour Ministry. As Labour is a concurrrent subject, it is upto the State Government concerned, in case they are satisfied about its need to set up a Working Group to study the long term impact of legislations on the Beedi and Cigar Workers of Tamil Nadu.

Import of Newsprint

*105. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL *alias* MEEM AFZAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state the value and weight of Newsprint imported from foreign countries during March, 1995?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): The value and weight of newsprint imported during March, 1995 was Rs. 6102.11 lacs and 32207 tons respectively.

Unemployment of Labour Force

*107. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of unemployed, semi-employed, self-employed labour force in the country;

(b) the minimum wages for unskilled labour for the last three year, State-wise; and

(c) the measures being taken to reduce the list of unemployed person?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) to (c) As per the estimate of the Planning Commission the total number of Unemployed persons as on April 1995 was of the order of 17.9 million. About 6 million were severely underemployed at the beginning of 1992-93.

As per the results of 43rd round survey (1987-88) of the National Sample Survey Organisation 53.6% of the total workers were estimated to be self-employed in terms of Usual Principal Status.

The Eights Five Year Plan envisages a strategy for achieving the goal of near full employment situation in the country as a whole by the year 2002. This goal is sought to be achieved by accelerating growth of productive employment opportunities on the basis of faster growth of employment-intensive sectors, sub-sectors and activities. The Plan also emphasises the need for revamping education and training system to introduce flexibility and responsiveness to labour market. In addition to this overall strategy resulting in employment opportunities for both the educated and uneducated unemployed through the normal growth process, the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana launched on 2nd October, 1993 aims at creating self-employment opportunities specially for the educated unemployed youth in various states.

Under the Minimum wage Act, 1948, both the Central as well as State Governments are the appropriate Governments for fixation/revision of minimum rate of wages for scheduled employments falling under their respective jurisdictions. The minimum wages in the Central sphere as well as State sphere are revised from time to time. The statement indicating available information on the existing range of minimum wages for the unskilled categories of workers in different States/UTs is presented in the Statement.